



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/004,465	11/01/2001	Bruce A. Phillips	1832 (42059-01350	6760
22193	7590	05/17/2005	EXAMINER	
QWEST COMMUNICATIONS INTERNATIONAL INC LAW DEPT INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP 1801 CALIFORNIA STREET, SUITE 3800 DENVER, CO 80202			BELLO, AGUSTIN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2633	

DATE MAILED: 05/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/004,465

Applicant(s)

PHILLIPS ET AL.

Examiner

Agustin Bello

Art Unit

2633

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/11/02.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-6, 8-12, 18-21, 23-26, and 30-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Williams (U.S. Patent No. 5,880,864).

Regarding claims 1, 18, and 30, Williams teaches receiving downstream voice video and data communications in a headend (CO in Figure 1); receiving into a user gateway (reference numeral 102 in Figure 1) located in a Customer Premise, upstream voice video and data communications from customer premise equipment; and providing the downstream voice video and data communications from the headend to the user gateway at a synchronous optical network (SONET) transmission rate (e.g. OC-12 in Figure 7); and providing the upstream voice video and data communications from the user gateway to the headend at the SONET transmission rate (e.g. OC-12 in Figure 7).

Regarding claim 2, Williams teaches providing over an optical communication link (reference numeral 104 in Figure 1) an optical carrier transmission including the downstream voice video and data communications from the headend to an optical to electrical conversion node (reference numeral 101, 102 in Figure 1; Figure 8A); in the optical to electrical conversion node, converting the optical carrier transmission into an electrical equivalent transmission (e.g. DS-1 in Figure 8A); and in the optical to electrical conversion node, providing the electrical equivalent transmission to the user gateway (as seen in Figure 1).

Art Unit: 2633

Regarding claim 3, Williams teaches in the user gateway, providing the electrical equivalent of the optical carrier transmission including the upstream voice video and data communications to the optical to electrical conversion node (reference numeral 101, 102 in Figure 1); in the optical to electrical conversion node, converting the electrical equivalent of the optical carrier transmission rate to the optical carrier transmission rate (e.g. OC-12); and in the optical to electrical conversion node, providing the optical carrier transmission to the headend (as seen in Figure 1).

Regarding claims 4, 19, and 31, Williams teaches providing the downstream voice video and data communications using an asynchronous transfer mode protocol (Figure 6, 7, and 8A), and providing the upstream voice video and data communications from the user gateway to the headend using the asynchronous transfer mode protocol (Figure 6, 7, and 8A).

Regarding claims 5, 20, and 32, Williams teaches providing the downstream voice video and data communications from the headend to the user gateway using an internet protocol (e.g. SONET, Ethernet 10 Base T in Figure 1); and providing the upstream voice video and data communications from the user gateway to the headend using the internet protocol (e.g. SONET, Ethernet 10 Base T in Figure 1).

Regarding claims 6, 21, and 37, Williams teaches compressing the upstream video communications using an MPEG format (column 7 lines 47-65; column 9 lines 27-37); and compressing the downstream video communications using the MPEG format (column 7 lines 47-65; column 9 lines 27-37).

Regarding claims 8, 23, and 36, Williams teaches providing the downstream voice video and data communications from the headend to the user gateway using time division multiplexing

Art Unit: 2633

(inherent in the SONET protocol), and providing the upstream voice video and data communications from the user gateway to the headend using time division multiplexing (inherent in the SONET protocol).

Regarding claims 9 and 24, Williams teaches OC-12 (Figure 8A)

Regarding claim 10, 25, and 33, Williams teaches STS-12 (e.g. the electrical equivalent inherent from the conversion of the optical signal from optical to electrical).

Regarding claim 11, 26, and 34, Williams teaches the electrical equivalent of the optical carrier transmission rate is a synchronous transfer module transmission (e.g. the electrical equivalent inherent from the conversion of the optical signal from optical to electrical).

Regarding claim 12, Williams teaches receiving a video request for a video transmission from a video device connected to the user gateway; receiving a data request for a data transmission from a data device connected to the user gateway; and receiving upstream voice communications from a call device connected to the user gateway (column 13 line 46 – column 14 line 37).

Regarding claims 38-40, Williams teaches a computer, a television and a telephone (Figure 1; column 13 line 46 – column 14 line 37).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2633

4. Claims 7, 13-17, 22, 27-29, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams.

Regarding claims 7, 22, and 35, Williams differs from the claimed invention in that Williams fails to specifically teach providing the downstream voice video and data communications from the headend to the user gateway using code division multiplexing, and providing the upstream voice video and data communications from the user gateway to the headend using code division multiplexing. However, code division multiplexing is very well known in the art and Official Notice is taken that it is well known in the art of optical communication. One skilled in the art would have been motivated to employ code division multiplexing in the device of Williams in order multiple signal streams to be transmitted simultaneously. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to employ code division multiplexing in the device of Williams.

Regarding claims 13, 14, 27, 28, and 29, Williams differs from the claimed invention in that Williams fails to specifically teach providing request to the headend and processing requests at the headend. However, this type of request provision and processing is well known in the art. Williams discloses that it is well known in the art (column 2 lines 24-43). One skilled in the art would have been motivated to employ this type of request and process scheme in order to allow for the dynamic allocation of bandwidth from the headend. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the request and processing scheme if desired by one skilled in the art.

Regarding claims 15-17, Williams appears to teach that in the user gateway, providing the requested video transmission directly to the video device, wherein the video device is

Art Unit: 2633

configured to display the requested video transmission to the user, in the user gateway, providing the requested data transmission directly to the data device, wherein the data device is configured to display the requested data transmission to the user, and exchanging the upstream and downstream voice communications directly between the user gateway and the call device.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Goodman and Rowan disclose relevant art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Agustin Bello whose telephone number is (571) 272-3026. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan can be reached on (571)272-3022. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AB


AGUSTIN BELLO
PATENT EXAMINER
05/11/05